

HAND-HELD DRINKING CONTAINER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to exercise equipment, more specifically, a drinking container to be used when a person is engaged in exercise or athletic activities.

5 When exercising, it is especially important to keep one's body replenished with fluid to ward-off the risks associated with dehydration, including dizziness, fatigue, and over-heating. However, it is not always convenient for an athlete or exerciser to stop his or her game or workout to quench his or her thirst. Thus, there exists a need for a type of hand-held container for liquids to be used in an
10 athletic environment that is easy to carry.

Many current hand-held liquid dispensers are mouth-operated, which can lead to mouth injuries if a person does not stop his or her activity before use. In addition, many hand-held containers require the use of two hands to open the container, which could cause the distracted athlete to lose his or her balance and
15 thus get injured. Therefore, there exists a need for such hand-held containers to be safe to use and easy to operate while performing an athletic activity.

The present invention helps to aid in the hydration of a person participating in an athletic activity by providing an easy-to-carry hand-held drinking container that is finger activated and does not require two hands to open. In addition, the

present invention can also be used as an aid in athletic training where removable weights can be attached to the hand-held drinking containers.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,152,862, issued to this inventor on Nov. 28, 2000 (the '862 patent), describes a hand-held drink dispenser with a plurality of reservoirs for providing measured amounts of liquid intake and an optional weight attachment means. The prior art cited in the '862 patent is hereby integrated by reference.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a hand-held drinking container with optional weights to be used by a person while engaged in athletic activities, such as running, walking, and in-line skating.

A further object of the present invention is to provide the drinking container can be used for other purposes, such as weight training.

The present invention fulfills the above and other objects by providing a hand-held drinking container which is finger operated by athletes or exercisers drinking from it. An external valve trigger is connected to a valve line. When the user moves the trigger clockwise or counterclockwise, the trigger mechanism is activated. The trigger mechanism then pulls down on the sealer, thereby

allowing liquid to flow from the reservoir, through the funnel spout, and out to the user's mouth. When the trigger is turned to its original position, the sealer returns to its starting position to prevent any more fluid from entering the funnel spout.

5 In addition, separate weights can be attached to the bottom of the invention preferably by using Velcro™-type hook and loop fastening material to enhance the user's workout.

 Preferably, the exercising athlete carries one of the hand-held drinking containers in both hands and first drinks from one container and then from the
10 other in order to maintain weight balance.

 The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the
15 invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

 This invention is described by appended claims in relation to a description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the following drawings which are explained briefly as follows:

FIG. 1 is a front view of an embodiment of the present invention with optional weights added;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

FIG. 3 is a top view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

5 **FIG. 4** is a side view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** without the optional weights;

FIG. 5 is a side cross section view along lines 5-5 of the embodiment of **FIG. 2**;

10 **FIG. 6** is a perspective view of the trigger mechanism of the embodiment of **FIG. 5**;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the trigger mechanism of the embodiment of **FIG. 5**;

FIG. 8 is a perspective bottom view of the invention showing the optional weights of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

15 **FIG. 9** is a side view of a single weight;

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** being grasped by a user's hand; and

FIG. 11 is a side view of the embodiment of **FIG. 4** showing the optional flashlight attachment.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Listed numerically below with reference to the drawings are terms used to describe features of this invention. These terms and numbers assigned to them designate the same features throughout this description.

5	1. liquid reservoir	16. connector
	2. funnel spout	17. flat end of rod
	3. trigger	18. link
	4. cushiony support	19. flap
	5. funneled cap	20. arm
10	6. handle	21. sealer eyes
	7. weight	22. screw
	8. security strap	23. sealer-locking mechanism
	9. spout opening	24. dimple
	10. trigger mechanism	25. recess
15	11. sealer	26. bump
	12. funneled cap opening	27. main body
	13. stopper	28. flashlight
	14. rod	29. on/off switch
	15. washer	

20 With reference to **FIG. 1**, a front view of the present invention with optional weights **7** added thereon is shown. The hand-held drinking container has a funneled cap **5** and a liquid reservoir **1**, which is in the shape of a handle **6** and a main body **27**. The user places his palm around the handle **6** so as the cushiony supports **4** on the main body **27** are located between his or her index
25 and middle finger and middle finger and ring finger. The cushiony supports **4** are preferably made of foamed rubberlike material to provide light pressure over

a broad portion of the user's hand. The cushiony supports **4** promote relaxed holding to allow the user to focus his or attention on the activity being performed instead of on continually gripping the container. Optional weights **7** can be attached to the bottom of the hand-held drinking container by using a security
5 strap **8**, preferably made of Velcro™ type hook and loop fastening material.

In **FIG. 2**, a side view of the hand-held drinking container is shown with the optional weights **7** added thereon. The handle **6** preferably has a slenderized and curved shape so as to allow easy and comfortable gripping of the container.

In **FIG. 3**, a top view of the hand-held drinking container is shown. A
10 spout opening **9** allows the fluid to be poured out through the funnel spout **2** which is preferably sized and shaped to fit into the mouths of users.

In **FIG. 4**, a side view of the present invention is shown without the addition of the optional weights **7**. The liquid reservoir **1** is substantially flat on the bottom to allow the hand-held drinking container to stand upright when
15 placed on flat surfaces. Recesses **25** are located on the bottom of the liquid reservoir **1** so as to accommodate optional weights **7**.

In **FIG. 5**, a cut-away view of the funneled cap **5** is shown with the trigger mechanism **10**. The trigger **3** is connected to an internal rod **14**. Fluid is prevented from leaking through the trigger **3** area by the use of a stopper **13**

around the rod **14**. The rod **14** has a flat end **17** which is inserted through the bottom hole of the connector **16**. The bottom end of a link **18** is then inserted into a top hole of the connector **16** while the top end of the link **18** is inserted into a hole in the flap **19** of the arm **20**. A sealer **11**, preferably made of rubber, is sized and shaped so as to fit into the funneled cap opening **12** and overlap the funneled cap opening **12** perimeter. The sealer **11** is attached to the arm **20** by inserting the sealer eyes **21** into the sealer-locking mechanism **23** on the arm **20**. The arm **20** is secured to the funneled cap **5** by using screws **22**. When the user desires a drink, he or she uses his or her thumb to turn the trigger **3** in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction depending on which hand the container is being carried. When the trigger **3** is turned, the rod **14** connected to the trigger **3** turns, causing the flat end of the rod **17** to also turn, which causes the connector **16** to move downward. The link **18** then moves downward and pulls on the flap **19**. The sealer **11**, in turn, is pulled downward, allowing a gap to form between the sealer **11** and the funneled cap opening **12**. This gap allows liquid from the liquid reservoir **1** to enter the funnel spout **2**. The user then tilts his or head backwardly and upends the hand-held drinking container to position the funnel spout **2** over the user's mouth to take a drink. Once satisfied, the user positions the container back to its original upright position and uses his or her

thumb to turn the trigger **3** back into its original position to prevent more fluid from entering the funnel spout **2**.

In **FIG. 6**, an upward rear perspective view of the trigger mechanism **10** is illustrated showing the same component discussed in relation to **FIG. 5**.

5 In **FIG. 7**, an upward front perspective view of the trigger mechanism **10** is shown in detail. Washers **15** are placed around the ends of the link **18** so as to secure the link **18** both into the flap **19** of the arm **20** and the flat end of the rod **17**.

10 In **FIG. 8**, an upward perspective view of the bottom of the hand-held drinking container is shown with the optional weights **7** added thereon. The weights **7** are securely fastened to the container by using a security strap **8**. Dimples **24** are located on the bottom of each weight **7** to help prevent lateral shifting of the weights **7** during use of the container.

15 In **FIG. 9**, a side view of a single weight **7** is shown. The weight **7** has a recess **25** located in the center of the weight and has bumps **26** located on the top surface of the weight on either side of the recess **25**. When the weights **7** are stacked, the bumps **26** on the top of the weight **7** fits into the dimples **24** on the bottom of a second weight so as to provide stability in the stacked weights **7**. The security strap **8** fits around the recess **25** area of the weight to secure the

weights 7 to the container and to keep the weights 7 from sliding while the user is engaged in an athletic activity.

In FIG. 10, a perspective view of a person holding the present invention is shown. A person places his or her palm around the handle 6 and then bends his or her fingers so as to grasp the handle 6. The fingers are placed so as the back of the hand of a person rests against the cushiony supports 4. When the person desires to take a drink, he or she places his or her thumb on the trigger 3 and moves the trigger 3 in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction, depending on which hand the container is being carried.

In FIG. 11, a side view of the present invention is shown with an optional flashlight 28 attached via the security strap 8. The optional flashlight 28 has an on/off switch 29 to project light wherever the user prefers.

The hand-held drinking container should be of sufficient shape and size as to accommodate various types of thirst. For example, the container could accommodate 16, 24, or 32 ounces of fluid or more.

As described, the present invention allows users to easily carry a beverage while performing various physical activities. In addition, the optional weight feature allows the user to have a more strenuous workout, if so desired while the optional flashlight attachment promotes safety while performing activities at

night.

It is to be understood that while a certain form of the invention is illustrated, it is not to be limited to the specific form or arrangement of parts herein described and shown. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that
5 various changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention and the invention is not to be considered limited to what is shown and described in the specification and drawings.